

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3801

S E C R E T USNATO 5326

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: EC CONSULTATIONS

REF: USNATO 5301

1. STATING HE WAS CALLING AT INSTANCE OF SYG LUNS, DIRECTOR OF LUNS PRIVATE OFFICE, VAN CAMPEN, TELEPHONED CHARGE SEPTEMBER 30 TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH REGARD TO EC NINE CONSULTATIONS ON MBFR, OF WHICH LUNS HAD LEARNED THAT DAY:

A. THE SYG IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED, BUT WAS UNABLE TO VERIFY, THAT A SENIOR US OFFICIAL HAD INFORMED THE FRG THAT HE DID NOT OBJECT TO EC NONE CONSULTATIONS ON MBFR.

B. LUNS HAS STRONGLY UPHELD THE PRINCIPLE THAT MBFR CONSULTATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN NATO.

C. IF THE REPORT IS TRUE, LUNS BELIEVES IT PECULIAR FOR THE US TO AGREE TO MBFR CONSULTATIONS FROM WHICH THE UNITED STATES ITSELF AS WELL AS CANADA AND ALL OTHER NON NINE ALLIES WOULD BE EXCLUDED. MOREOVER, INVOLVING IRELAND IN MBFR CONSULTATIONS IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.

D. SYG RECOGNIZES THAT IF THE US HAD EXPRESSED ITSELF OPPOSED TO MBFR CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE NINE, THE EC
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MIGHT STILL HAVE GONE AHEAD. NEVERTHELESS, LUNS IS SURPRISED THAT THE US DID NOT CONSULT PROMPTLY ON THIS MATTER WITH HIM, SINCE IN NOT OPPOSING EC NINE CONSULTATIONS ON MBFR, THE US IN LUNS VIEW HAS DEALT A SERIOUS BLOW TO NATO CONSULTATIONS.

2. CHARGE RESPONDED HE WOULD REPORT LUNS VIEWS PROMPTLY.

3. COMMENT: AS INDICATED IN USNATO 5301, RUMORS OF EC NINE CONSULTATIONS ON MBFR HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING HERE FOR ABOUT A WEEK, BUT WE HAVE OFFERED NO COMMENT TO OUR SOURCES. LUNS REACTION, HOWEVER, STRIKES US AS SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED. ACCORDINGLY, SUGGEST WE BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL LUNS THAT:

A. SOME AMONG THE NINE, AND ESPECIALLY FRNACE, HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT ASPECTS OF MBFR THAT ARE WELL KNOWN. AIRING OF THESE VIEWSIN THE NINE WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL CONSULTATION WHTY HAVE INITIATED AMON THEMSELVES.

B. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT IF WE WERE TO OPPOSE NINE CONSULTATIONS ON MBFR, IT WUULD GIVE THE ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIIION THAT WE FEARED DEBATE AMONG THE EUROPEANS ON MBFR ISSUES MOST AFFECTING THEM.

C. SO LONG AS THE NINE DEEP THE OTHER ALLIES FULLY INFORMED, AS WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THEY SHOULD, WE SEE NO INFRINGEMENT ON THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS UNDER WAY IN NATO.

D. FINALLY, THE NINE HAVE MET SO SELDOM ON MBFR, AND THEIR DISCUSSION TO DATE HAS BEEN SO GENERAL, THAT THEE WOLD SEEM LITTLE RISK OF THE NINE USURPING NATOS ROLE.

4. REQUEST GUIDANCE SOONEST. STREATOR

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